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Letter dated 12 August 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I wish to transmit to you herewith a letter dated 9 August 2000 from Mr. Mohammed Said Al-Sahaf, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq, concerning the ongoing wanton aggression against Iraq by United States and British aircraft in the unlawful no-flight zones. During the period from 31 July to 7 August 2000, these aircraft carried out 240 aggressive sorties, 154 of them from Saudi Arabia, 56 from Kuwait and 30 from Turkey. The Minister urges the Security Council to assume its responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security by intervening with the Governments of the United States, the United Kingdom and the countries that provide the logistic support for this aggression, namely Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Turkey, with a view to inducing them to halt, end and desist from any resumption of their constant and unwarranted aggression against Iraq.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Saeed H. **Hasan**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 12 August 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I should like to inform you that United States and British warplanes based in Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Turkey have continued to violate the airspace of the Republic of Iraq. They carried out 240 sorties in the period from 31 July to 7 August 2000, 154 of them from Saudi Arabia, 56 from Kuwait and 30 from Turkey, as shown hereunder.

1. In the northern region 30 sorties were flown at speeds of 720 to 780 kilometres per hour and at altitudes of 6,000 to 12,000 metres, as follows:

(a) At 1033 hours on 1 August 2000 United States and British F-15, F-16 and EA-6B aircraft coming from Turkish territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the northern region. They carried out 14 missions from Turkish territory, were supported by an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Turkish airspace and overflew the Dohuk, Amadiyah, Aqrah, Bamarni, Rawanduz, Ninawa, Zakho and Irbil areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1125 hours, drove them off.

(b) At 1045 hours on 2 August 2000 United States and British F-15, F-16, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Turkish territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the northern region. They carried out 16 missions from Turkish territory, were supported by an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Turkish airspace and overflew the Dohuk, Amadiyah, Aqrah, Irbil, Zakho, Rawanduz, Dokan and eastern Mosul areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1320 hours, drove them off.

2. In the southern region 210 sorties were flown at speeds of 720 to 780 kilometres per hour and at altitudes of 9,000 to 13,000 metres, as follows:

(a) At 0910 on 31 July 2000 United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16 and F-18 aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 36 missions, 24 of them from Saudi territory with the support of an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace and 12 from Kuwaiti territory with the support of an E-2C command and control aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Nasiriyah, Salman, Shinafiyah, Basrah, southern Diwaniyah, Qal'at Sukkar, Qal'at Salih, Qurnah, Najaf, Samawah and Jalibah areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1150 hours, drove them off.

(b) At 0800 on 2 August 2000 United States and British F-15, F-16, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 24 missions, 18 of them from Saudi territory with the support of an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace and six from Kuwaiti territory with the support of an E-2C command and control aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Samawah, Salman, Shinafiyah, Lasaf, Taqtaqanah, Qal'at Sukkar, Nasiriyah, Basrah, Amarah, Qurnah, Artawi, Qal'at Salih and Jalibah areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged them and, at 0915 hours, drove them off.

(c) At 1100 on 3 August 2000 United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated

Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 24 missions, 14 of them from Saudi territory with the support of an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace and 10 from Kuwaiti territory with the support of an E-2C command and control aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Basrah, Samawah, Amarah, Lasaf, Salman, Jalibah, Artawi and Qurnah areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1215 hours, drove them off.

(d) At 0855 hours on 4 August 2000 United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, F-18, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 34 missions, 32 of them from Saudi territory with the support of an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace and two from Kuwaiti territory with the support of an E-2C command and control aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Basrah, Nasiriyah, Amarah, Nu'maniyah, Ukhaydir, Lasaf, Samawah, Afak and southern Taqtaqanah areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged them and, at 1115 hours, drove them off.

(e) At 0855 on 5 August 2000 United States and British F-15, F-16, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 30 missions, 26 of them from Saudi territory with the support of an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace and four from Kuwaiti territory with the support of an E-2C command and control aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Basrah, Nasiriyah, Qal'at Sukkar, Nukhayb, Lasaf, Salman, Samawah, Shinafiyah, Ukhaydir, Diwaniyah, Karbala, Razzazah, Hayy, Najaf, Kut, Nu'maniyah, Hashimiyah and Ushbayjah areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1030 hours, drove them off.

(f) At 1025 on 6 August 2000 United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 32 missions, 22 of them from Saudi territory with the support of an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace and 10 from Kuwaiti territory with the support of an E-2C command and control aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Basrah, Qal'at Salih, Qal'at Sukkar, Shatrah, Lasaf, Taqtaqanah, Samawah, Shinafiyah, Jalibah, Diwaniyah, Qurnah and Amarah areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1400 hours, drove them off.

(g) At 0955 hours on 7 August 2000 United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, F-18, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 30 missions, 18 of them from Saudi territory with the support of an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace and 12 from Kuwaiti territory with the support of an E-2C command and control aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Nasiriyah, Salman, Razzazah, Samawah, Najaf, Karbala, Basrah, Diwaniyah, Qurnah and Amarah areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged them and, at 1110 hours, drove them off.

This aggression illustrates the bellicose attitude being maintained by the United States of America and the United Kingdom towards Iraq. Since 1992, it has become a fixed policy aimed at undermining the country's sovereignty,

independence and territorial integrity and at the systematic and concerted destruction of Iraqi lives, infrastructure and civilian installations. It is a policy that has been affirmed in successive statements made by United States and British officials defending the measures being taken to enforce the no-flight zones.

The Government of Iraq categorically rejects the two so-called no-flight zones, which were imposed by unilateral decision of the United States of America and the United Kingdom and lack any legal basis. Iraq rejects all the consequences of this illegal decision and, in particular, the flimsy excuses and pretexts used by these countries in an attempt to justify their military aggression against our country.

The logistic support provided by Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Turkey to the Americans and the British makes these countries key partners in the aggression being committed against Iraq, so that they bear international responsibility for actions that are deleterious to the people of Iraq.

The Government of Iraq, condemning these acts of aggression against civilian targets and Iraqi civilian installations, urges the Security Council to perform its assigned duties with respect to the maintenance of international peace and security in order to halt, end and prevent any recurrence of this constant and unwarranted aggression against an independent, sovereign State.

(*Signed*) Mohammed Said **Al-Sahaf**
Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq